

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20436

**MEMORANDUM ON PROPOSED TARIFF LEGISLATION
of the 109th Congress¹**

[Date approved: December 30, 2005]²

Bill No. and sponsor: H.R. 2818 (Mr. Richard Neal of Massachusetts).

Proponent name, location: Russell Corp. (Spalding Division)
Springfield, MA.

Other bills on product (109th Congress only): H.R. 2817, H.R. 2819, and H.R. 2821.

Nature of bill: Temporary duty suspension through December 31, 2009.

Retroactive effect: None.

Suggested article description for enactment (including appropriate HTS subheading):

Basketballs, having an external surface of leather (provided for in subheading 9506.62.80).

Check one: ☐ Same as that in bill as introduced.
 ☒ Different from that in bill as introduced (see Technical comments section).

Product information, including uses/applications and sources of imports:

The four bills noted above deal with basketballs with covers made of different materials—namely, leather, rubber, or various man-made materials. The core of all basketballs is composed of a butyl, natural, or combination rubber bladder (with molded inflation valve) that is subsequently wound with a polyester or nylon material to protect it and maintain its shape. A partially cured rubber carcass consisting of two half shells is placed over the wound core and cured under pressure in a hot mold. The carcasses for the subject leather basketballs are formed in molds that produce a smooth, black, round surface with raised ridges that provide channels for the cover material. Die-cut leather panels are then affixed with glue and hand-assembled into the channels so that a high pressure molding process insures a tight bond of the cover materials to the carcass. Leather-covered basketballs are primarily designed for indoor use. Basketballs are typically produced in “youth,” “intermediate,” and “official” sizes for adolescent, female, and male users. The principal sources of imports of basketballs are China and Thailand.

¹ Industry analyst preparing report: John Cutchin (202-205-3396); Tariff Affairs contact: Jan Summers (202-205-2605).

² An electronic copy of this memorandum is available at http://usitc.gov/tata/hts/other/rel_doc/bill_reports/index.htm.

Estimated effect on customs revenue:

HTS subheading: 9506.62.80					
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Col. 1-General rate of duty	4.8%	4.8%	4.8%	4.8%	4.8%
Estimated value <i>dutiable</i> imports	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000
Customs revenue loss	\$480,000	\$480,000	\$480,000	\$480,000	\$480,000

Source of estimated dutiable import data: Official U.S. Government statistics and U.S. industry and Commission estimates.

Contacts with domestic firms/organizations (including the proponent):

Name of firm/organization	Date contacted	US production of same or competitive product claimed?	Submission attached?	Opposition noted?
Russell Corp. (Proponent) Brian J. Wolfe, 678-742-8290	10/05/2005	No	No	No
Sandler, Travis, & Rosenberg Stephen Hofmann, 202-216-9307	09/26/2005	No	No	No
Pioneer National Latex Nancy Patterson, 419-289-3300, ext. 517	10/17/2005	No	No	No
Sporting Goods Manufacturers Assoc. Bill Sells, 202-349-9417	09/27/2005	No	No	No
Target Corp. Toni Dembski-Brandl, 612-696-2573	10/10/2005	No	No	No
Wilson Sporting Goods Co. Mike Kuehne, 773-714-6891	10/07/2005	No	No	No

Technical comments:³

It is suggested that the article description be modified as shown on page 1 of this report. We also suggest that the special subcolumn of the new provision read “No change” rather than “Free” with no special

³ The Commission may express an opinion on the HTS classification of a product to facilitate consideration of the bill. However, by law, only the U.S. Customs Service is authorized to issue a binding ruling on this matter. The Commission believes that the U.S. Customs Service should be consulted prior to enactment of the bill.

program indicator. All special-rate countries are eligible for general duty rates, and the duty-free general rate treatment would be easier to claim.

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2818

To suspend temporarily the duty on certain leather basketballs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 8, 2005

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To suspend temporarily the duty on certain leather basketballs.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. CERTAIN LEATHER BASKETBALLS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 99 of
5 the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States is
6 amended by inserting in numerical sequence the following
7 new heading:

“	9902.95.08	Leather basketballs (provided for in subheading 9506.62.80)	Free	Free	No change	On or before 12/31/2009	”.
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8 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
9 subsection (a) applies to goods entered, or withdrawn from

- 1 warehouse for consumption, on or after the 15th day after
- 2 the date of the enactment of this Act.

